

**Assembly Concurrent Resolution**

**No. 71**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Nielsen**  
**(Coauthor: Assembly Member Adams)**  
(Coauthor: Senator Aanestad)

May 4, 2009

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Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 71—Relative to the Milton La Malfa Memorial Highway.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 71, as amended, Nielsen. Milton La Malfa Memorial Highway. This measure would designate a specified portion of State Highway Route 99 in Oroville as the Milton La Malfa Memorial Highway. The measure would also request the Department of Transportation to determine the cost of appropriate signs showing this special designation and, upon receiving donations from nonstate sources covering that cost, to erect those signs.

Fiscal committee: yes.

- 1     WHEREAS, It was with immense sadness and a deep sense of  
2     loss that word was received of the death of Milton Joseph La Malfa  
3     on October 5, 2008, a distinguished Californian whose character  
4     and deeds in life merit gratitude and respectful acknowledgment  
5     by the people of the state; and  
6     WHEREAS, Born in San Jose, California, to Tony and Marge  
7     La Malfa on February 22, 1937, Milton La Malfa was raised and  
8     lived nearly his entire life in Richvale, California, on the farm that

1 his Italian grandfather, Giusseppe La Malfa, purchased in 1931;  
2 and

3 WHEREAS, Earning a degree in agriculture/business from  
4 Fresno State University in 1959, Milton La Malfa married Karon  
5 Myers of Oroville, California, in 1958, and their union was blessed  
6 with three children, Doug, Sherry, and Lisa; and

7 WHEREAS, An individual of profound faith, Milton La Malfa  
8 was a source of spiritual inspiration for his family, and he helped  
9 nurture the character of each generation and taught the important  
10 values that have enabled them to succeed in our complex society  
11 and to develop and sustain their faith and community spirit; and

12 WHEREAS, Distinguishing himself as a prominent rice farmer  
13 in the area, Milton La Malfa worked with his father to level the  
14 ground in the ~~1950's and 1960's~~ *1950s and 1960s*, taming new  
15 acreage and improving irrigation methods of rice; Milton La Malfa  
16 was also involved with experimental projects through the rice  
17 experiment station, where he worked on fertilizer and herbicide  
18 studies to improve rice production and yields and grew foundation  
19 seed rice, and in 1960, a small rice dryer was built on the ranch  
20 for seed rice storage and isolation; and

21 WHEREAS, In addition to utilizing his outstanding talent and  
22 skills as an innovative thinker in his farming operation, Milton La  
23 Malfa shared his wise counsel in numerous capacities on a broad  
24 range of public and private organizations, including several rice  
25 industry organizations; and

26 WHEREAS, A leader in every sense of the word, Milton La  
27 Malfa provided leadership and results-oriented vision as a director  
28 of the Butte County Rice Growers Association from 1973 to 1975  
29 and again from 1981 to 1986, as well as secretary-treasurer for  
30 four years and chair for one year; Milton La Malfa also served  
31 with distinction as a director of Associated Rice Marketing  
32 Cooperative from 1988 to 1993, serving as chair for one year, and  
33 also gave his time as director of the Richvale Seed Growers for  
34 many years; and

35 WHEREAS, Demonstrating a deep commitment to water and  
36 the needs of the farmer throughout his life, Milton La Malfa was  
37 instrumental in organizing local farmers in 1985 to form the  
38 Western Canal Water Users Association, which initiated the  
39 negotiations with Pacific Gas and Electric to purchase the water  
40 rights and conveyance system for the farmers in the area, and he

1 subsequently became Director of the Western Canal Water District  
2 (formed from the Western Canal Water Users Association) and  
3 also served as its president; and

4 WHEREAS, Milton La Malfa also contributed extensively as  
5 a director of Drainage District 200 and was on the Board of the  
6 Northern California Water Association, which is the advocacy arm  
7 of the water districts in Sacramento; and

8 *WHEREAS, Milton La Malfa was recognized for his leadership*  
9 *in rice propagation, development, and in securing water for*  
10 *California rice's future, and was nationally awarded the*  
11 *prestigious 2008 Rice Farmer of the Year Award by the USA Rice*  
12 *Federation; and*

13 WHEREAS, Admired and appreciated for his kindness,  
14 generosity of spirit, love of family, passion for working to make  
15 the world a better place, and genuine capacity to share his time  
16 and talents with others, Milton La Malfa was dedicated to  
17 philanthropy in his personal life, and his many contributions to  
18 the community will not be forgotten; and

19 WHEREAS, A lifelong member of the Richvale Evangelical  
20 Free Church, Milton La Malfa served as a trustee on the church  
21 board for several years, and he will be remembered throughout  
22 the community as a friend and confidant by the many persons  
23 whose lives he touched; and

24 WHEREAS, During his lifetime, Milton La Malfa enjoyed water  
25 skiing and boating, a little golfing and fly-fishing, travel with a  
26 few other couples, and especially spending time at Lake Almanor,  
27 both in the lake or playing board games with the family; and

28 WHEREAS, Milton La Malfa recently celebrated his ~~fiftieth~~  
29 *50th* wedding anniversary with his wife, Karon, and is survived  
30 by his children, Doug and Jill La Malfa, Sherry and Scott Smith,  
31 and Lisa and Kalin Koehnen; his seven grandchildren; and his  
32 brother, Anthony La Malfa Jr.; and

33 WHEREAS, The high esteem in which Milton La Malfa was  
34 held by his loving family, his numerous friends, and other  
35 individuals fortunate enough to have known him stands as a  
36 testament for others who strive for the best in their personal,  
37 professional, and community life, and his memory will live forever  
38 in the hearts and minds of those people who knew him; and

39 WHEREAS, For those reasons, the Legislature wishes to express  
40 its deepest sympathy at the passing of Milton La Malfa and, by

1 this resolution, memorializes him for his illustrious record of  
2 personal, professional, and civic achievements, as well as the love  
3 and devotion he gave to his family and friends; now, therefore, be  
4 it

5 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*  
6 *thereof concurring*, That the portion of the State Highway Route  
7 99 between Oroville Dam Boulevard West and Nelson Avenue in  
8 Oroville is hereby designated the Milton La Malfa Memorial  
9 Highway; and be it further

10 *Resolved*, That the Department of Transportation is requested  
11 to determine the cost of appropriate signs, consistent with the  
12 signing requirements for the state highway system, showing the  
13 special designation and, upon receiving donations from nonstate  
14 sources covering that cost, to erect those signs; and be it further

15 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit a copy  
16 of this resolution to the Director of Transportation and to the author  
17 for distribution.